GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2151
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007
SINKING OF CARGO VESSEL NEAR IRAQ
Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a cargo vessel carrying some Indians sank near the coast of Iraq recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of Indians rescued and missing in the incident;

(d) whether any assistance has been provided by the Government to the affected people;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not the reasons herefore?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) & (b): A cargo MSV (Mechanized Sailing Vessel) Jai Krishna Sagar flying Indian Flag and having 15 Indian national seafarers on board and sailing from Dubai to Iraq with cargo of 350 tons sank near the coast of Iraq on 27.12.2006 in the late evening reportedly due to strong winds and rough sea conditions.

(c): Out of a total crew of 15, two crew members were rescued by MT Geilo, a Norwegian ship. Subsequently two dead bodies were recovered by US Naval ship in that region. The whereabouts of missing 11 crew members could not be ascertained and Search & Rescue operations have been abandoned.

(d) to (f): The Director General of Shipping with the help of Indian High Commission office at Bahrain provided all possible assistance to the owner of the vessel and people affected by this casualty. The two surviving crew members have arrived safely in India and the mortal remains of the two deceased seamen have been repatriated to India and handed over to the next of kin. The Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai has already advised the owners to pay compensation to the affected families.